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Date: October 30, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

Gerhard Beitel et al.

Applic. No.

09/734,467

Filed

December 11, 2000

Title

Methods for Producing a Structured Metal Layer

Examiner

Ida M. Soward

Art Unit: 2822

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 21, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, applicants elect group II, claims 1-30, for prosecution at this time.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application including the device claims of group I at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 1-30 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARKUS NOLFF REG. NO. 37,006

Date: October 30, 2002

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